

I am particularly concerned that the transition period SHOULD be EXTENDED. At point is the lack of inexpensive front-end devices to feed analog TV's, AND the lack of inexpensive 16x9 display devices.

Both of these seem to be driven by common historical new technology patterns related to cost of manufacture and recovery of research cost issues. The COMMERCIAL sector needs more time.

If the analog sources are cut off too early, the outcry will be huge and the FCC and Congress will be subject to a slam-down from peeved TV viewers of a magnitude not imagined. Whatever you had planned will simply be reversed at whatever cost and embarrassment. You might as well mess with motherhood. What ever spectrum recovery was possible will be put WAY back after that.

What also may happen with a too-quick shutdown is that people might just abandon over-the-air and everything else for NTSC 4x3 from satellite and tell the HD crowd to take a hike. If the local TV stations's are prevented from supplying NTSC 4x3 content prematurely, it will just kill their advertising revenue, and likely some good number of them as well.

Many years after the US went to NTSC color, I still had a black and white TV out on the workbench to watch the ball games while I worked. I had better be able to use my collection of analog TV's around the house. I won't be spending five thousand dollars to replace them all just because the FCC wants the spectrum for something else. I'll be all over congress, with lots of company.

It will make the flap over power companies and gas prices look like a cakewalk by comparison, and probably produce a lot of unfortunate consequences in the rush to reverse the disconnect.

When I can buy a Digital TV converter for \$100 that allows me to run output around my house to my old analog sets, and a 32" 16x9 plasma screen TV for \$300, the time will be right. Take your time and all will work out fine.

Do it too early and you guys gonna get tarred and feathered, and some significant part of the baby will likely get thrown out with the bathwater.

As a note, it seems clear that the biggest block to clarity of video comes in the networks and in the TV stations. The digital based ads that come over 4x3 NTSC satellite feeds show up remarkably clear on my 31 inch analog TV. It ain't us that's the problem, it's THEM!